

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO EB BRUSSELS AND MEXICO
FROM GENEVA FEB 20:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 1089

PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: TNC - TROPICAL PRODUCTS SUBGROUP

BEGIN SUMMARY: FIRST MEETING OF TNC WORKING GROUP
(GROUP 3F) DEVELOPED CONSENSUS AS TO BEST WAY OF PROCEEDING
SO AS TO TREAT TROPICAL PRODUCTS AS A SPECIAL AND PRIORITY SECTOR
AS CALLED FOR IN TOKYO DECLARATION. GROUP ACCEPTED NOTE BY THE
SECRETARIAT WHICH LAYS OUT SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAM, PART OF
WHICH WILL FORM BASIS OF NEXT MEETING. WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN
CONFORMITY WITH U.S. POSITION THAT OPTIONS ON METHODS AND
PROCEDURES NOT BE FORECLOSED AT THIS EARLY STAGE. DELEGATION IS
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CARRYING BACK ORIGINAL DRAFT OF SECRETARIAT NOTE WHICH TO BE REVISED

IN LIGHT OF COMMENTS IN LAST SESSION. ONLY MINOR CHANGES
MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. MEETING, WHICH LAUNCHED FIRST TNC WORK GROUP AND
CONTINUED MOMENTUM GENERATED BY FEBRUARY 11 TNC,
CONDUCTED IN BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER. ALL PARTICIPANTS
EVIDENCED DESIRE TO MOVE IN CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION.

2. PRICE DATA WILL BE COLLECTED AS CALLED FOR IN PARAGRAPH
16 OF TNC WORK PROGRAM. DANGER THAT WORK WOULD BE
DELAYED BY REQUIREMENTS THAT SECRETARIAT UNDERTAKE LONG
GENERAL STUDIES ON PRICES DIVERTED IN FINAL ANALYSIS BY
CONSENSUS TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC PRODUCTS AT NEXT MEETING.

3. EC, MEXICO, BRAZIL, U.S. AND PHILIPPINES (FOR ASEAN'S)
WERE IN THE LEAD DURING DISCUSSION. AFRICANS TOOK LITTLE
PART, FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICANS ARE APPARENTLY WAITING UNTIL
YAOUNDE NEGOTIATIONS ARE FARTHER ALONG. IN ADDITION, EXPERT
FROM LAGOS DID NOT ARRIVE AS EXPECTED.

4. COLOMBIAN DELEGATION INFORMED U.S. PRIVATELY THAT LDC'S
HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT COMMON POSITIONS
BECAUSE OF SPLIT BETWEEN THOSE WHO PRIMARILY PRODUCE TROPICAL
PRODUCTS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT. ONE POINT OF CONTENTION
MENTIONED WAS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CUBAN AND ARGENTINE
DELEGATIONS ON TREATMENT OF SUGAR. CUBAN DELEGATION WANTED
TO EMPHASIZE SUGAR EARLY WHILE ARGENTINE DELEGATION WAS OPPOSED.

5. BOTH EC AND U.S. EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF GIVING PRIORITY
TO THOSE PRODUCTS EXAMINED IN COM. TD/W/189 WHICH DO NOT
RPT NOT COMPETE WITH TEMPERATE PRODUCTS OR WITH SYNTHETICS AND
ON WHICH RAPID PROGRESS MIGHT BEST BE MADE. SECRETARIAT,
WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH U.S. DELEGATION,
DESIGNED WORK PROGRAM TO ALLOW US TO PROCEED IN THIS FASHION.

6. THE QUESTION OF OILS AND OILSEEDS, WHICH AMONG PRODUCTS
COVERED BY COM.TD/W/189, LIKELY TO ARISE IN MEETING OF
GROUP 3E NEXT WEEK. USG SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FACE ISSUE OF
DIVISION OF WORK ON THESE COMMODITIES BETWEEN GROUPS 3E AND 3F.

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7. NEXT MEETING OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 22.

8. FOR MEXICO CITY, U.S. DELEGATION TO FONMIN
CONFERENCE: FIRST TNC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON TROPICAL
PRODUCTS DEMONSTRATED UTILITY AND POSSIBILITIES OF U.S.-LATIN
AMERICAN COOPERATION. U.S. AND LA DELEGATIONS (PRINCIPALLY
MEXICO AND BRAZIL) REINFORCED EACH OTHERS' ATTEMPTS TO CARRY

OUT OBJECTIVES OF TOKYO DECLARATION BY FORMULATING A CONSTRUCTIVE
WORK PROGRAM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR TRADE IN TROPICAL
PRODUCTS. SPECIFICALLY, U.S. CITED MEXICAN SUGGESTION FOR
CARRYING OUT STUDIES ON CERTAIN POSSIBLE APPROACHES AS TYPE OF
USEFUL PROPOSALS WHICH WE HOPE OTHER DELEGATIONS COULD MAKE.
BRAZILIAN AND U.S. DELS CONSULTED CLOSELY BEFORE SESSIONS OF
MEETING AND WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT PARALLEL APPROACHES
TO WORK PROGRAM. \$-3 7,17953 :- 36

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